

Newsletter

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

Office Phone (717) 933-4723 Office Fax (717)933-9223

www.LittleSwatara.org

"Little Swatara is a Christ-centered Community of caring and serving people committed to peace and following Jesus Christ to: Grow Spiritually, Build Christian Community, and Share the Good News"

Worship Services 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Volume XLIX

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor
February, 2015

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Number 2

love is in the air



That day remains in my heart forever. We were first time visitors to the church and the young woman we sat behind that day was a real beauty. She caught my eye from the moment I first saw her and it was love at first sight.

There's just such a great feeling of being loved and loving others. This new year may we show love to those outside our normal circles of family and friends. Let us love with patience at the check out lines, with compassion as we share our differences, with grace as things don't always turn out as expected. Love is a choice. Yet when chosen, is a priceless gift to a passerby that hasn't quite experienced it lately. Particularly when that love is given with no strings attached. It's what called agape love or unconditional love. The kind of love Jesus showed us by dying on the cross for our sins.

As we encounter people of the same opinion and varying opinions, might we be gentle and understanding in love. May we have a love as described in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

We learn further in verse 13 that "Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love."

It's my prayer we view the world around us with the greatest of these — love. Will it take all we have to be all in for Jesus to love this way. You bet it will. But is it worth it? You can count on it. Be blessed. Be love. We never quite know when that one we show love to will have the most lasting change in their life take place and trust in Jesus. All because we were love.

Serving the master in surrender,

Pastor Matt

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF...

-Julie (Dosch) Tobias, on the death of her husband, Chris Tobias, December 28, 2014.

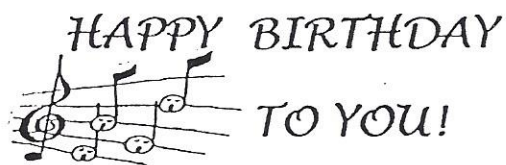
-Diane Long family on the death of her father, Richard Dickinson, who died January 13, 2015.

CHILD AND PARENT DEDICATION - January 4, 2015

Aydin, Ava, Ansley Blatt, and Parents, Matt and Leah Blatt.

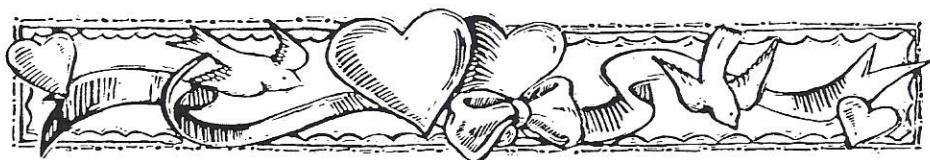
PLEASE NOTE CHANGES - The telephone number of Kenneth and Kathryn Wenger is now
717-507-3441.

Martha Klahr, Stoneridge Town Center, Rm H308-B, 7 W. Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067



Members Birthdays for February:

Robert Lingle	1	Trevor Fessler	14	Alma Nolt	19
Rick Brandt	1	Gerald Seiler	14	Kevin Stupp	19
Suzanne Miller	2	Cheryl Gates	15	Sharon Wise	20
Gail Malsbury	3	Jodylynn Mill	15	Derek Yenser	20
Joan Sweigart	4	Ian Hetrick	16	Jonathan Yenser	20
Sandra Keeney	5	Travis Gensemer	16	Jeffrey Donkel	21
Randall Keeney	6	Keith Brandt	17	Nancy Miller	22
Martha Patrick	6	Orwin Keeney	17	Wendy Ziegler	22
Ashley Boltz	7	Gerhard Reinhard	17	Eugene Stump	24
Matthew Manbeck	7	Gary Bashore	18	Violet Frantz	25
David Hoke	8	Sandra Dreibelbis	18	Todd Bashore	25
Matthew Bohn	9	Mark Forry	18	Rufus Merkey	28
Rebecca Emerich	9	Jon Krueger	18	Terry Bashore	28
Tucker Howell	12	Jennifer Speraw	19	Doris Hershey	28
Kenneth Duell	13	Jean Lingle	19		



THE GATHERING PLACE

I heard it at the Café...



The café had several events going on, especially in December during the holiday season. A volunteer was discussing this at her work place and a coworker commented how she was trying to plan a visit to the café with members of her church. Once she heard about the 3 J's at the café the first and 3rd Sunday of each month she mentioned that will probably be the time they plan their visit.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - 2015

President -Beatrice Frantz
Vice President -Rebecca Rebman

Secretary - Kathryn Ziegler
Treasurer - Brenda Brubaker

Bazaar/Yard Sale

Michelle Snyder - 2015
Jennifer Emerich - 2016
Sally Emeerich - 2017

Birthday

Marlene Blatt - 2015
Barbara Batz - 2016
Jean Keeney - 2017

Christmas Plants

Beryl Wanner - 2015
Arlene Hershey - 2016

Decorating

Linda Bowman - 2015
Pat Timmins - 2016
Kathryn Ziegler - 2017

Helping Hands

Beatrice Frantz - 2015
Joanne Yenser - 2016
Gail Malsbury - 2017

Sub Sale

Brenda Brubaker
Wendy Lingle

Kitchen

Brenda Brubaker - 2015
Linda Bowman - 2016
Wendy Lingle - 2017

Lebanon Valley Brethren

Home

Rebecca Rebman
Linda Bowman

Nominating

1.
2.

Photographer

Ann Hock

Program

Sue Hartranft - 2015
Judy Coots - 2016
Jean Myers - 2017

Public Food Sale

Brenda Brubaker
Beatrice Frantz
Wendy Lingle

Quilts and Comforters

Kathryn Wenger - 2015
FernPhillipy - 2016
Vera Gross - 2017

Spiritual Enrichment And Prayer Circle

Linda Ziegler
Dianne Younker

Waitress

Denise Bohn - 2015
Rachel Graby - 2016

Sunshine

Beryl Wanner - 2015
Louise Graby - 2016

Church Flower Plants

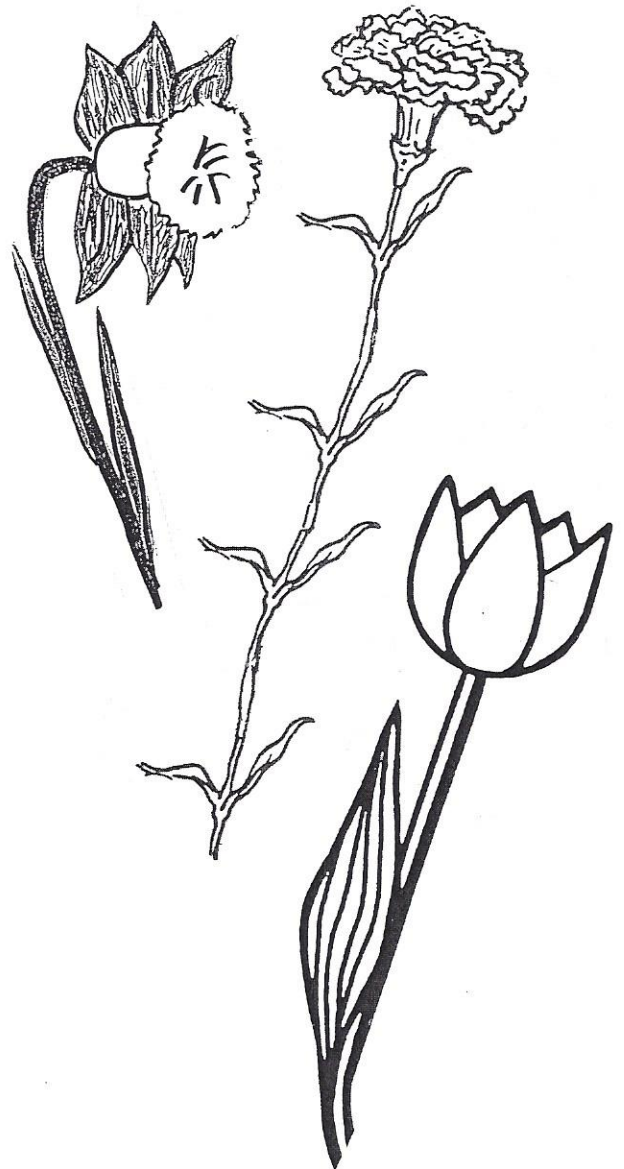
Jean Smith

Spring Flower Plants

Fern Phillipy - 2015
Marie Ziegler - 2016

Scrap Book

Fern Phillipy



E-MAIL/FACEBOOK INFORMATION

Little Swatara maintains an e-mail announcement list. If you would like to receive information about the ongoing activities and ministries of the church, please visit our web site at www.littleswatara.org. click on "contact/locate" and follow the link to subscribe.

Little Swatara records every 10:30 a.m. service. If you would like a recording of our service for personal use, or to pass on to a friend or neighbor, please let the audio operator know after the service, and a CD will be provided for you.

Did you know Little Swatara is on Facebook? "like" us to stay up to date on what is going on in our congregation, then post pictures of recent church activities, stay up to date on sermon topics and other events within the denomination, or just share things you think would be meaningful to our church community.

WLBR BRETHREN HOUR BROADCAST SCHEDULE - 2015

January	4 Myerstown 11 Midway 18 Mt. Zion Road 25 Little Swatara	July	5 Myerstown 12 Midway 19 Annville 26 Annual Conference
February	1 Myerstown 8 Midway 15 Mt. Wilson 22 Heidelberg	August	2 Myerstown 9 Midway 16 Mt. Zion Road 23 Heidelberg 30 Palmyra
March	1 Myerstown 8 Midway 15 Schuylkill 22 Annville 29 Palmyra	September	6 Myerstown 13 Midway 20 Schuylkill 27 Annville
April	5 Myerstown 12 Midway 19 Annville 26 Mt. Wilson	October	4 Myerstown 11 Midway 18 Little Swatara 25 Mt. Zion Road
May	3 Myerstown 10 Midway 17 Mt. Zion Road 24 Little Swatara 31 Annville	November	1 Myerstown 8 Midway 15 Heidelberg 22 Mt. Wilson 29 Annville
June	7 Myerstown 14 Midway 21 Heidelberg 28 Mt. Wilson	December	6 Myerstown 13 Midway 20 Little Swatara 27 Mt. Wilson

**ANNOUNCING:
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICES**

Spiritual Renewal Services
will be held at
Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
March 15-18, 2015

Speaker:
Rev. Jeffrey Copp

Theme:
**"Confirmation and Refocusing
On Faith for the future"**

Place these dates on your calendar as a
reminder to attend
Spiritual Renewal Services.

More information will be in the March
Newsletter

MISSION OF THE MONTH:
"Global Food Crisis"

EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

February 9, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

The Quarterly Council Meeting is scheduled for
Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall. The agenda includes:

- *Fourth quarter 2014 Financial Report
- *Annual Financial Report
- *Mortgage Payment Progress
- *Ministry Team Reports (booklet form)
- *Pastor Matt
- *Auditor's Report
- *Gathering Place Café
- *"What's Happening"

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Please put these dates on your calendar:

- *Several "Sub" Sales are scheduled for
March 12 and April 9, 2015
- *Two Breakfasts will take place on
March 28 and April 25 - Time: 7-10 a.m.
- *Crafts: February 10 and March 10,
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

There is some chow-chow available for sale –
\$6.00 qt. - \$3.00 pt. Contact Beatrice Frantz.

All women are invited to attend our meetings and
help in the projects planned. The next meeting will
be held Thursday, February 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the
Ladies Aid Room.

WESTERN BERKS SHEPHERDING MINISTRIES

Happy New Year to all of you. Thank you for your help in 2014

Are you a Spector or a Participant? As Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc. enters its fifth year of outreach ministry, a recent devotional I received really seemed appropriate to our situation. WBSM took 75 new clients into the program in 2014. BUT, only 26 new volunteers were trained. The devotional stated, "Admiring people for what they do is one thing. Actually joining them is something else. The world is full of compliments, but very few who give compliments will become comrades."

Do you think what WBSM is doing in our communities is important? We do. And we appreciate your compliments, but we need YOU to help us reach out to others by becoming one of our volunteers. Help us to make our ministry stronger by becoming a participant instead of a spectator. We're asking you to share one, only one, morning or afternoon a month of your time to help someone get to a doctor appointment or therapy. Training, insurance, mileage reimbursement and an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life by sharing God's love is what you will get in return.

Save the date: The next 45 minute volunteer training session will be on March 3rd at 10 a.m. at St. John's (Hain's), Wernersville. Please contact Cheryl Young at 610-670-5945, for questions.

WBSM Statistics for 2014:

No. of clients served – 844;

No. of services provided – 1457;

No. of volunteers used - 1099

No. of volunteer hours provided - 3489



K I D S K L I P S

Unscramble

the words to find things to do to have an abundant life.

1. keam a itgf _____
2. ktea a wlka _____
3. gnis a nsgo _____
4. od a ikdn eded _____
5. mreimzoe citreuprs _____

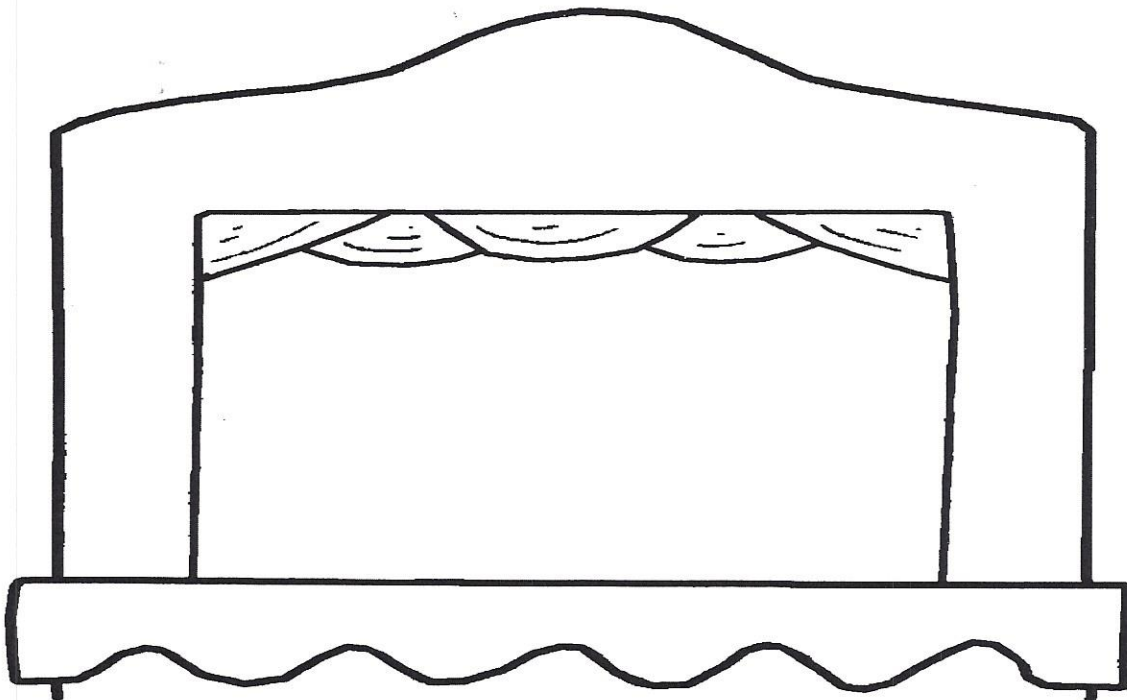
6. phle econsom _____
7. lcla a sloomnee nroesp _____

8. arde hte bBeil _____
9. rpya orf osoemen _____
10. iertw a epmo _____

Answers: Make a gift, take a walk, sing a song, do a kind deed, memorize scripture, help someone, call a lonesome person, read the Bible, pray for someone, write a poem.

God's Love

Draw a picture of someone on the stage doing something to show God's love.





Little Swatara Preschool

February 2015



Dear Friends,

Hello on this *cool* winter morning. The Preschool teachers are busy getting ready for an exciting and interesting February. We will focus on love with Valentine's Day just around the corner. The children and teachers are sharing ideas on ways to show and receive love from others. We will be singing songs and telling stories from the Bible about love and caring for others.



We will talk about showing love to God, our families and friends, not only with words but also with deeds. We will discuss that friends love at all times, not just the good times. God loves us and provides for us, and it is loving to forgive those who hurt our feelings. We will continue to emphasize acts of kindness and politeness as ways of showing love. While we practice these ideas at Preschool, please encourage them at home. Take time with your child to show him/her how much you love them. Give hugs and kisses and say "I love you". Choose a special word, signal or gesture of affection that only your family knows. These are a few ideas that show your child they are special and loved by you.



During Circle time at Preschool, a special sign given by Miss Cindy is often a wink or thumbs-up sign. This is done to encourage group participation, to note an effort well done, or even to say, "I see you". These gestures are to encourage a loving atmosphere where learning is favored.



I hope you are able to see the growth the children have made since beginning Preschool in September. They are learning to recognize names, print and recognize letters, and to follow directions. We work diligently at making learning fun. We want the children to trust us with their thoughts and feelings and to be happy they spent a large part of their day with us. Your child is growing in many ways while attending classes here at Little Swatara. We are privileged to have such important roles in their lives.



With love, *Miss Cindy*



Valentine's Celebration: Each class will have a Valentine's Day celebration on the following dates:

Pre K 1 class Thurs. Feb 12

Pre K 3 class Thurs. Feb 12.

M/W class Mon. Feb 16.

T/Th class Tues. Feb 17.

If your child wishes, she/he may prepare and handout valentine cards for their classmates. A class roster will be sent home shortly. Your child does not have to participate in handing out cards if they do not want to. Young children often do not understand the concept of card exchange.

Each child will make a valentine holder/bag and all classes will have a small party.

There will be a snack sign-up sheet posted in the classroom hallways. If you are willing to contribute an item, please sign-up or telephone Miss Cindy. Thank you for all you do to support your child at Little Swatara Preschool.



2015 - 2016 Preschool Year

Registration for the 2015-2016 Preschool year begins March 2. We will be offering three morning classes and two afternoon Pre K classes will be available if needed. The Preschool classes will meet twice a week and the Pre Kindergarten classes will meet three times a week. Please note the Pre Kindergarten classes are intended for children that will be enrolling for Kindergarten in 2016. If you are interested in any of our programs, please contact Miss Cindy.

Inclement Weather

In case of bad weather, we will follow these guidelines: Preschool closings will coincide with Tulpehocken Elementary School. When they close, we will be closed. If they delay for 2 hours, our morning sessions will be cancelled and the afternoon session will run as scheduled. If Tulpehocken closes early, our afternoon session will be cancelled. Weather delays and cancellations are broadcast on the following radio stations:

WLBR 1270 AM Lebanon,
WEEU 850 AM Reading,
WRFY 102.5 FM Reading.

Television station:

WGAL Channel 8 -
Berks Cable.

At this time there are no snow days to be rescheduled.



FYI In February, the Preschool Board of Directors will be sponsoring a candle fund raiser. The funds received will go to the Newman E. Silks Scholarship Fund. Information will be sent home this month. Thank you for supporting Little Swatara Preschool!



President's Day

We are scheduled to have class on Monday, February 16. If your child will not be attending, please notify their teacher. Thank you.



Reminders:

- Miss Traci's **M/W and T/TH** classes will have **Pajama Days** on **February 11 & 12**. Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas to Preschool those mornings.
- **We are no longer collecting toilet paper rolls or magazine cards.** Thank you to all who provided these items for us.
- If you want to discuss your child's progress, remember **our teachers are available to meet with you** either face to face or via telephone conference. Please contact LSP.



Sign Language

The Pre Kindergarten children are learning a sign language for colors, Bible memory verses and for phrases that go along with songs we sing at Circle Time. The children pick-up the signing quickly. They know the signs for Jesus, love, yes, thank you, friend, follow and a few other words. Ask your child to sign for you, see what they are able to say to you with out using their voice. This month we will learn the sign "I love you".





2015 COMING EVENTS



- 1, 8:15 & 10:30am Bread & Cup Communion
9:30am New Member Class
- 6pm Scout Leader Mtg
- 2, 6pm Tiger Mtg
- 3, 7pm Leadership Mtg
- 5, 9am Women's Fellowship Business Mtg
- 7, 1pm FH, 50 Plus meet
- 8, 9:30am New Member Class
Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis Sunday
- 9, 7:30pm, Every Member Council Meeting
- 10, 9am, WF Craft Class
12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet
6-7pm Den Mtg
- 11, 7pm Christian Ed Meeting
- 14, VALENTINE'S DAY
- 15, Scout Sunday
- 16, PRESIDENT'S DAY
6pm Tiger Mtg
- 17, 7pm, Ministry Team Meetings
- 18, ASH WEDNESDAY
- 20, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 22, I Lent
Noon, Pack Mtg
Newsletter Deadline
- 24, 12:30-5pm, 50 Plus Meet
All Team Minutes Due
6-7pm Den Mtg
- 28, 2:30-8pm FH,K Reserved
SCOUTS- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

- 1, II LENT
1pm, Scout Leader Mtg
- 3, 7pm FH, Leadership Team
- 5, 9am Women's Business Mtg
- 7, 1pm FH, 50 Plus Meeting
- 8, III LENT
Daylight Savings
Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis Sunday
FH, Reserved
- 10, 9am FH, Craft Class
12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus meet
6-7pm Den Mtg
- 11, 4pm Prepare for Subs
- 12, 6am Sub Sale
- 14, 7-10am Scout Pancake Breakfast
Prepare for All Fellowship Luncheon
- 15, IV LENT
10:30am ONE SERVICE
NOON, All Fellowship Luncheon
7pm, Spiritual Renewal Services with Pastor
Jeffrey Copp
- 16, 6pm Tiger Mtg
7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service
- 17, St Patrick's Day
7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service
- 18 10:15a-6pm, 50 Plus Bus Trip
7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service
- 20, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 21, 8am Pack Mtg
- 22, V LENT
Newsletter Deadline
One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday
- 24, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet
Ministry Team Minutes Due
6pm Den Mtg
- 28, 7-10am WF Fundraiser Breakfast
- 29, PALM SUNDAY
- 30, 6pm, Tiger Mtg



EXERCISE CLASS

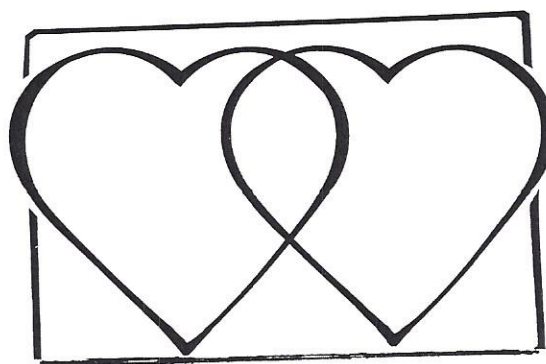
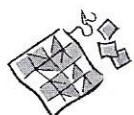
*Meets every week
Monday and Wednesday
8:45-9:45 a.m.*

CHOIR REHEARSALS EVERY WEDNESDAY

*Jubilee - 7:00-7:30 p.m.
JOY - 7:00-7:30 p.m.
Senior - 7:30-8:30 p.m.*

QUILTING AND COMFORTERS

*Meet every week
Thursday, 8 a.m.*





Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
31 Rehlersburg Road
P O Box 437
Bethel, PA 19507

FEBRUARY 2015



LENT BEGINS
February 18, 2015

ANYWAY

PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE, ILLOGICAL
AND SELF-CENTERED;

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF
SELFISH ULTERIOR MOTIVES;

BE KIND ANYWAY.

IF YOU ARE HONEST, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU;

BE HONEST ANYWAY.

IF YOU FIND SERENITY AND HAPPINESS, PEOPLE
MAY BE JEALOUS OF YOU;

BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY, PEOPLE WILL OFTEN
FORGET TOMORROW;

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE, AND IT
MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH;

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY.

YOU SEE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD;

IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.

-The Newsletter Newsletter



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

"The greater perfection a soul aspires after, the more dependent it is upon divine grace."

-Brother Lawrence